

LET DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AND CIVILIAN POLICE COORDI-
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HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I recently introduced the Department of Defense and Civilian Law Enforcement Coordination Act of 2009 (H.R. 675). My bill would amend federal law to permit Department of Defense law enforcement officers to better coordinate and cooperate with civilian law enforcement agencies. I drafted this legislation in cooperation with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) because many DOD law enforcement officers in my district have informed me that they are prohibited from basic coordination and cooperation with civilian agencies near DOD facilities. We need to ensure that federal, state, and local law enforcement are able to work together to apprehend criminals and to prevent and solve crimes. I hope that my colleagues will join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAM-
BLING STATE UNIVERSITY FOOT-
BALL TEAM

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Grambling State University (GSU) Tiger Football Team for becoming the State Farm Bayou Classic Champions, the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Champions and the Sheridan National Black College Champions for 2008.

By defeating Southern University 29–14 in the 35th Annual State Farm Bayou Classic on November 29, GSU won the SWAC West Division and earned the opportunity to meet Jackson State University (JSU) in the SWAC Championship Game. This battle provided the Tigers a rematch against the victors of last year's game.

On December 13, GSU secured their 10th consecutive win of the 2008 football season, making the Tigers the new champs of this competitive conference. This win marked the Tigers 22nd time to capture the SWAC Football Championship. In addition, GSU head coach Ron Broadway was named the SWAC Coach of the Year.

Shortly following this victory, the Tigers were crowned the Sheridan National Black College Champions—marking their 14th time to win this national title in the school's history. This outstanding recognition is the second earned by Broadway in three years.

The Tigers finished the season with an impressive 11–2 record—matching the record of the 2005 GSU Football Team, which also earned these titles.

I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the players, coaches, students and staff that were instrumental in these triumphs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2008 GSU Tiger Football Team for all of their successes achieved during this season.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS
OF THE PILOT, CREW, AND RES-
CUERS OF US AIRWAYS FLIGHT
1549

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 84, legislation to honor the heroic efforts of Flight 1549's Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III, his flight crew, the First Responders and private citizens that prevented a catastrophic engine failure on a commercial aircraft from resulting in a single loss of life.

Just five minutes after lifting off on January 15, 2009, Captain Sullenberger's aircraft was struck by a flock of birds, resulting in the loss of two of his engines. The instant those engines failed, Captain Sullenberger, his crew, the passengers entrusted to his care, and residents of the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey who were in the plane's potential flight path were at grave risk. And yet, rather than give in to panic, Captain Sullenberger wrestled his damaged aircraft into a controlled water landing—an act described in the Wall Street Journal as “one of the rarest and most technically challenging feats in commercial aviation.”

When his plane hit the water Captain Sullenberger and his flight crew—including First Officer Jeffrey Sikes and Flight Attendants Doreen Welsh, Donna Dent, and Sheila Dail—worked quickly and calmly to evacuate their passengers, not stopping until every man, woman and child was out of harm's way. Outside, they were aided by a growing flotilla not just of Coast Guard and police boats, but civilian ferries as well.

Once Flight 1549 was emptied of passengers, Captain Sullenberger walked up and down the aisles of the sinking aircraft twice, only exiting when he was absolutely certain that he had discharged his duty to completely evacuate the plane. His grace under pressure, as well as that of the rescue workers and flight crew, ensured that an emergency in the air did not become a disaster on the ground.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 84. The courage, level-headed professionalism and sheer heroism of the Captain and crew of Flight 1549 are an inspiration to all Americans.

HONORING DEBRA JORDAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mark the passing of a true champion for the working families of eastern Connecticut. Debra Jordan of Plainfield, beloved daughter, wife and mother, passed away on January 25, 2009 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Debra was a consummate professional who cared deeply about the rights of working men and women. She was an active member of UNITE HERE, serving as local 217's sec-

retary-treasurer for more than 15 years. She fought tirelessly for the people with whom she worked, always believing that no matter what one's station in life might be, that everyone deserved to be treated fairly and justly.

Although her professional career was marked by her commitment to working families, it was the love of her own family that defined her life. Whether it was caring for her grandson Lucien Dube, or at the track watching her son Tim race, anyone who knew Debra could tell you that these were the moments that brought joy to her life and that great smile to her face. While we lament her passing, we know that her memory will live on in her beloved family, including her husband Patrick, to whom she was married for 25 years.

This has been a trying week for those of us who had the privilege to call Debra our friend. She left us too early, but as we grieve her we must remember the joy that she brought to the lives of all she touched. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Debra Jordan.

HONORING PURPLE HEART
RECIPIENT FRANCIS J. SEYFRIED

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Francis J. Seyfried. A proud member of our Nation's military during World War II, Staff Sergeant Seyfried was killed over the North Atlantic when his plane evaded enemy fire, crashed into another aircraft, and his parachute landed in the frigid Atlantic waters below.

Born on November 22, 1921 in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Seyfried joined the Army Air Corps on January 30, 1943. Stationed in Europe, he and his fellow soldiers were assigned to perform bombing runs over enemy lines. It was during his 43rd such attack on December 31, 1944 that Mr. Seyfried lost his life in battle.

Commonly known as the Piggyback incident, the midair collision of two military planes caused a sensation amongst military members at the time. Returning from a bombing run over Hamburg, Germany, Staff Sergeant Seyfried's aircraft was evading enemy fire when his plane collided with another Allied aircraft. The two planes stuck together, with the engine of one plane dug completely into the engine of the other. Instead of separating and crashing separately, the two planes continued flying together in piggyback fashion. While ten of the crew members from the two planes did manage to escape safely, Staff Sergeant Seyfried was lost in the frigid North Atlantic waters off the German coast.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like Francis J. Seyfried should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Seyfried's family with his long overdue Purple Heart. While he has passed on from this life, his family, friends and loved ones should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.